

Two new synonyms from Tibet (Diptera: Empididae: Clinocerinae)

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The subfamily Clinocerinae (Empididae, Diptera) are aquatic dance flies, most commonly encountered in fast flowing rocky streams and creeks. The adults often rest on emergent rocks and are rather common in temperate regions.

Two recent publications describing new species of Clinocerinae from Tibet (Liu *et al.* 2014; Wang *et al.* 2015) require re-evaluation. In the former study, *Dolichocephala tibetensis* Liu, Tang & Yang, 2014 was described and appears identical to *D. flamingo* Smith, 1965. The authors compared their new species to species from China, but surprisingly overlooked Smith's detailed study of Empididae *s. lat.* from Nepal (Smith 1965) and did not cite this publication. The pattern of spots on the wing is identical in both species (as well as in *D. qinlingensis* Liu, Wang & Yang, 2014) and details of the clasping cercus and surstylus (although over-cleared and distorted in Smith (1965, figs 47, 48)) are clearly conspecific. For this reason I propose that *D. tibetensis* is a junior synonym of *D. flamingo* (**syn. nov.**) and the taxonomic history of this species is summarized in the following synonymy.

Dolichocephala flamingo Smith, 1965: 98. Type-locality: Nepal, Arun Valley, east shore of R. Arun below Tumlingtar, 1800 ft. **HOLOTYPE** ♂ (BMNH) [examined]. Smith (1975: 201) [catalogue]; Sinclair (1995: 706) [checklist]; Yang *et al.* (2007: 60) [catalogue]; Wagner *et al.* (2004: 22) [Himalayan female near *D. flamingo*].

Dolichocephala tibetensis Liu, Tang & Yang, 2014: 1023. Type-locality: Tibet, Bomi, Galonglashan, 2954 m. **syn. nov.**

In the second publication, *Wiedemannia tibetensis* Wang, Wang & Yang, 2015 was described from a single specimen, which appears identical to *W. glaucescens* (Brunetti, 1917). The characters used to justify the recognition of this species are either individual specimen variation (discal cell with short appendage); error (pterostigma is present in *W. glaucescens*, not absent as stated by Wang *et al.* (2015)); or an artifact of preparation of the terminalia (distiphallus of *W. tibetensis* appears to be either partially destroyed due to strong clearing agent or not fully inflated and the surstylus is likely retracted within the epandrium). The most important character for species definition in *Wiedemannia* Zetterstedt and most Clinocerinae is the shape of the clasping cercus (Sinclair 1995), which is identical in both species and this striking fact was not even discussed by Wang *et al.* (2015). Based on this evidence, I propose that *W. tibetensis* is a junior synonym of *W. glaucescens* (**syn. nov.**) and the taxonomic history of this species is summarized in the following synonymy.

Clinocera glaucescens Brunetti, 1917: 80. Type-locality: Phagu, Simla District, India. **SYNTYPES** 2 ♀ (ZSI) [examined; only 1 ♀ in type collection].

Acanthoclinocera glaucescens: Smith (1975: 200) [catalogue; transferred to *Acanthoclinocera* Saigusa].

Acanthoclinocera saigusai Smith, 1965: 102. Type-locality: Nepal, Taplejung District, Dobhan. **HOLOTYPE** ♂ (BMNH) [examined]. Smith (1975: 200) [catalogue; syn. of *glaucescens*].

Wiedemannia glaucescens: Sinclair (1994: 1012) [transferred to *Wiedemannia*]; Sinclair (1995: 715) [listed under subgenus *Philolutra* Mik]; Yang *et al.* (2007: 77) [catalogue]; Wagner *et al.* (2004: 23) [reared from small Himalayan stream].

Wiedemannia tibetensis Wang, Wang & Yang, 2015: 45. Type-locality: Tibet, Nyingchi, Sejilashan. **syn. nov.**

This paper highlights the need for more careful research in descriptive taxonomic work on Tibetan empidoid flies.

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